

# Unidentified green turaco in Ethiopia

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Un touraco appartenant au complexe *Tauraco persa* a été observé près de Sodere, dans les monts Bale, Ethiopie, le 19 novembre 1996. Il s'agissait soit d'un Touraco vert *T. persa* soit d'un Touraco à bec noir *T. schuetti*, l'identification précise n'ayant pas été possible. Aucun de ces deux taxons n'avait été observé en Ethiopie auparavant.

On 19 November 1996, I was driving from the Bale Mountains through a forested area toward Sodere. I made a stop at c3,000 m and heard some loud calls resembling the distant barking of a dog, which can be transcribed as *vub, vub, vub, vub, vub*. After a short pause, it called again. I located it sitting on the side branch of a large tree and immediately recognised it as a typical *Tauraco* with a greenish body, violet-blue wings and reddish primaries. The tail was concealed by the tree trunk but I had a clear view of the relatively short, greenish rounded crest, fringed white, the dark red bill and red orbital ring. In front of the eye there was a round white spot and a narrow but clear white line ran from below the eye to behind the eye.

I was immediately reminded of Green Turaco *Tauraco persa*, which is familiar to me from visits to West Africa. However, I could not eliminate Black-billed Turaco *T. schuetti*, which breeds in Central Africa, of which the race *emini* is fairly common in southern Sudan<sup>6</sup>. The short crest supports identification as this species, but the bill and wing colours do not, as *T. schuetti emini* apparently has green wings<sup>3</sup>.

The turaco I encountered thus belonged to the superspecies *Tauraco persa*, which was considered a single species by Moreau<sup>5</sup>. Fry *et al*<sup>3</sup> recognise three species within this complex: *Tauraco persa*, *T. schuetti* and Fischer's Turaco *T. fischeri*. Alternatively, Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett<sup>2</sup> also accord specific status to Livingstone's Turaco *T. livingstoni*, Knysna Turaco *T. corythaix* and Schalow's Turaco *T. schalowi*, an approach followed by Sibley & Monroe<sup>7</sup>, Turner *et al*<sup>8</sup>

and del Hoyo *et al*<sup>1</sup>. In view of these unresolved taxonomic questions, I will not attempt to assign the Ethiopian bird specifically, beyond that it belonged to the *Tauraco persa* complex. Neither *Tauraco persa* or *T. schuetti* has previously been recorded in Ethiopia<sup>1,9</sup> (J S Ash *in litt*).

## References

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## Waldrapp (Northern Bald Ibis) *Geronticus eremita* reintroduction workshop

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The report has just been published from the joint workshop, hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Eaux et Forêts, with support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK BirdLife International partner) and German Technical Assistance (GTZ) project, entitled *International workshop on a strategy for the rehabilitation of Northern Bald Ibis (Geronticus*

*eremita*), held in Agadir in March 1999. The 34 participants came from nine countries, and included all the main specialists in Waldrapp ecology and rehabilitation.

The objectives were to clarify what is known and what the problems have been with previous unsuccessful reintroduction attempts, so that future